

In response to the Office Action dated April 9, 2002, Applicant respectfully submits the following amendments and remarks.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 61, 62, 71 and 72 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Please amend Claims 63, 68-70, 73-78, 80 and 82 as follows. A marked-up version of these claims showing the changes made thereto is also attached. All of the pending claims in this application are listed for the Examiner's convenience.

61. (Cancelled)

62. (Cancelled)

D¹ 63. (Amended) The ink according to Claim 82, wherein the self-dispersing pigment is a self-dispersing carbon black to the surface of which at least one hydrophilic group is bonded directly or through another atomic group.

64. (Not Amended Herein) The ink according to Claim 63, wherein the hydrophilic group is anionic.

65. (Not Amended Herein) The ink according to Claim 64, wherein the resin encapsulating a coloring material has an anionic hydrophilic group at the surface thereof.

66. (Not Amended Herein) The ink according to Claim 63, wherein the hydrophilic group is cationic.

67. (Not Amended Herein) The ink according to Claim 66, wherein the resin encapsulating a coloring material has a cationic hydrophilic group at the surface thereof.

D² 68. (Amended) The ink according to Claim 82, further comprising a pigment dispersant.

69. (Amended) The ink according to Claim 63, further comprising a pigment dispersant having an anionic hydrophilic group when the hydrophilic group bonded to the surface of the self-dispersing carbon black is anionic.

70. (Amended) The ink according to Claim 63, further comprising a pigment dispersant having a cationic hydrophilic

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group when the hydrophilic group bonded to the surface of the self-dispersing carbon black is cationic.

71. (Cancelled)

72. (Cancelled)

D³ 73. (Amended) The ink according to Claim 82, wherein the pigment and the coloring material have the same color.

74. (Amended) The ink according to Claim 82, wherein the coloring material is encapsulated in a microcapsule made of the resin.

75. (Amended) An ink cartridge, comprising an ink container containing an ink according to Claim 82.

76. (Amended) A recording unit, comprising:
an ink container containing an ink according to Claim 82,
a recording head, and
means for feeding the ink from the ink container to the recording head.

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cont.

77. (Amended) An ink set comprising a first ink and a second ink in combination, wherein the first ink is an ink according to Claim 82, and each of the first and second inks has a color selected from the group consisting of yellow, magenta, cyan, black, red, green and blue.

78. (Amended) An image recording process, comprising the step of applying an ink according to Claim 82 to a recording medium by an ink-jet process.

79. (Not Amended Herein) An image recording process, comprising the step of applying at least two color inks to a recording medium using an ink-jet method to form a multi-color image, wherein one ink is an ink according to Claim 66 or 70, and the other ink comprises a compound having an anionic group.

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80. (Amended) An image recording apparatus, comprising:
an ink container containing an ink according to Claim 82; and
an ink-jet head for ejecting the ink.

81. (Not Amended Herein) An image recording apparatus, comprising:

ink containers containing first and second inks respectively, and a recording head for ejecting the respective inks, wherein the first ink is an ink according to Claim 66 or 70, and the second ink is an anionic ink.

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82. (Amended) An aqueous ink for an ink-jet printing process comprising

a self-dispersing pigment and a resin encapsulating a coloring material, the self-dispersing pigment and the resin encapsulating a coloring material being dispersed in an aqueous medium at a solid concentration A,

the resin being contained in a sufficient amount to provide rub-resistance to an image produced with the ink,

wherein the ink provides an ink jet recorded image with a certain optical density that is equivalent or substantially equivalent to that produced with an ink containing the self-dispersing pigment as a sole colorant at the solid concentration A, and wherein the encapsulated coloring material is an oil-soluble dye or a non-self-dispersing pigment.

REMARKS

Claims 63-70 and 73-82 are pending in this application, with Claim 82 being the only independent claim. Claims 61, 62, 71 and 72 are cancelled herein without prejudice